

Appl. No. 09/869,849
Amdt. dated March 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 18, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 5 and amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A thumb splint comprising:

a thumb stabilizing component for securing the thumb of the user to the adjacent index finger permitting the thumb to move toward the index finger but limiting movement of the thumb away from the index finger to a predetermined angle, said thumb stabilizing component comprising:

a thumb receiving section for receiving a thumb of a user;

an index finger receiving section for receiving an index finger of a user;

a non-extendable, flexible connector extending between and secured to the thumb section and the index finger section for permitting the thumb and index finger to move towards one another, but limiting the movement of the index finger away from the thumb beyond a predetermined value; and

a positioning component for securing the thumb stabilizing component in proper position on the hand of the user, said positioning component comprising an elongated strap having a first end secured to said thumb stabilizing component at a point between said thumb receiving section and said index finger receiving section and a second end releasably securable to said first end of said strap or to said stabilizing component for keeping the stabilizing component firmly and operatively positioned on the hand of the user and wherein said splint is incorporated into a glove or mitt; and

said strap having a length sufficient to extend from said stabilizing component,

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along the palm of the hand of the user, to and around the wrist and along the backside of the hand.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Amended) A thumb splint as defined in claim 1, said thumb stabilizing component and said positioning component being integral and formed of a single length of polyester or nylon or other suitable fabric webbing.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)